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B.C., Alberta look to expand UN heritage site

PARKS B.C. and Alberta are looking to add more international sparkle to Canada's Rocky Mountain parks.

Seven parks in the Rockies are already designated as a United Nations World Heritage Site because of their spectacular peaks, glaciers, pristine lakes, wildlife and geology.

Now the two provinces and Parks Canada are considering asking the UN to add nearby provincial parks and other protected lands to the heritage site. If approved, the expanded area could cover up to 3.5 million hectares of wilderness.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News on the Move
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Celebrity Buzz pg 18

Mom and dad made a tape, Pam tells boys

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KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Icemaker Ron Fell tests the temperature of the ice at the outdoor rink at Robson Square yesterday. The GE Ice Plaza officially opens today with a free public skate from noon to 9 p.m.

Robson Square ice rink to reopen noon today

Restored downtown venue ready after nine years of closure

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

Sharpen your skates — the long-awaited reopening of the outdoor ice rink at Robson Square kicks off today with a free public skate from noon to 9 p.m.

General Electric spent $1.6 million in the past three years restoring the rink under Howe and Robson streets after it closed in 2000 because of maintenance problems.

The glass-domed GE Ice Plaza will be used as a central location for public celebration during the Vancouver Olympics. Skating is free if you bring your own skates, and $3 to rent. Kids under 12 can rent for free.

Andrea Kay, who has a blog called 2010vanfan, went to Robson Square while the ice was being installed and said it's a "beautiful venue."

"It's a very nice, open space with those big domes … especially at night when the lights are on," said Kay.

She added that spotlights that feature shapes like snowflakes and stars will be shone on the ice, adding to the atmosphere.

Skating, concerts

- Free public skating will continue daily from noon to 9 p.m. until the start of the 2010 Winter Games.
- The new plaza will also feature live concerts.

"We do have wonderful things in this city and it's going to be quite a treat," said Kay.

Mary McNeil, Liberal MLA for Vancouver-False Creek, said the rink is another great family-oriented venue for people living downtown.

"We've gone from 4,300 families to 12,000 … and what that shows is people are becoming more urban and we have to make sure that those urban areas are well-rounded," McNeil said.

Island residents survey flood damage

DISASTER RELIEF Residents of flooded Vancouver Island communities spent yesterday assessing the damage and filling out government disaster relief forms.

Joe Barry of the Cowichan Valley Regional District says the weather has calmed and most of the flooding has receded in and around Duncan.

On Friday, about 300 homes were under an evacuation order, but that number has since fallen to fewer than 100 homes and residents are allowed to return if they feel safe.

Still, Barry says some residents might not be able to live in their homes immediately if there is too much damage that must be repaired first.

Kelly Nicholls, 17, returned to his one-storey house yesterday.

"Everything's everywhere, there's things everywhere, clothes, appliances — it's just wrecked," he said.

The province has said it will cover up to 80 per cent of costs after the first $1,000 and up to a maximum of $300,000.

A combination of heavy rain, melting snow and high tides caused the Cowichan and Koksilah rivers and several creeks to spill their banks on Friday, flooding dozens of homes in Duncan and the surrounding area.

There is rain in the forecast over the next few days, but officials aren't expecting more flooding.

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Local

Stanley Park brightens up

The 12th annual Bright Nights at Stanley Park kicks off on Friday. The event features a train ride through a forest transformed with two million festive lights and raises money for the B.C. Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund. It runs until Jan. 2, 2010 from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. every day except Christmas. METRO VANCOUVER

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 2009 Festival of Media Awards

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Blogs Sexcetera weighs in on the age-old question of "Once a cheater, always a cheater?"

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Sex trade advocates push to decriminalize

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

The sex trade needs to be decriminalized not just for the protection of sex workers but for the men who buy sex — most of whom are not violent, according to speakers at a public forum being held tonight.

Esther Shannon, the founder of First — a national coalition advocating for the decriminalization of sex work — is co-organizing the event at the Vancouver Public Library tonight.

"(The forum) is about public awareness ... And breaking down stereotypes. We don't say (decriminalization) is the silver bullet, but it is a critical first step."

Johns victims too, says SFU prof

New research suggests buyers of sex are just as victimized as prostitutes, says a professor at Simon Fraser University.

Chris Atchison said a study called the John's Voice Project, looks at the motivations and experiences of sex buyers.

"This notion of sex buyers as a group being labelled as inherently violent just doesn't seem to be supported by any of this research," said Atchison.

He said the study found that one to two per cent of johns assaulted sex workers. "In contrast ... 14 per cent had money or property stolen (and) five per cent had been attacked by a sex seller."

Rules endanger workers: Director

Prostitution laws that prohibit solicitation put sex workers in danger, says a former sex worker.

Jody Salerno, who is now director of women's services with the B.C./Yukon Society Of Transition Houses, said it's not the exchange of money for sex that's illegal, but the negotiation process.

"They end up having to get in the car and start negotiating," said Salerno.

She said abused sex workers are then re-victimized if they file a complaint.

"If our systems took violence against women seriously, (people) would respond in an equitable way without judgment," she said.

News in brief

MEMORIAL A memorial service is being held in Burnaby today for 21-year-old SFU Clan quarterback Bernd Dittrich, who died Nov. 11.

CHARGES The Templeton High School student accused of posting a 117-name hit list on Facebook plans to plead guilty to some of the 11 charges he faces in a deal to avoid jail, his lawyer said. The now 19-year-old has graduated and attends SFU.

FOUL PLAY After an autopsy, police say they believe a Vancouver Island folk musician was murdered. Tempest Grace Gale was found dead last Wednesday.

2010 OLYMPICS The decision to include women's ski jumping in the 2010 Games lies with the International Olympic Committee, not VANOC or Canada's government, B.C.'s highest court said. The court issued its reasons for dismissing a case filed by female jumpers on Friday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Neighbours **Home delivery**

RCMP HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

RCMP Const. Steph Rogers with neighbours Heather Boey, 27, Steve Boey, 36, and their baby Nathan. Rodgers, 38, helped deliver Nathan on Nov. 12, hours after the Boeys returned home from the hospital, certain their baby wasn't coming that night.

Dads target hockey stink

IDEAS Two Vancouver-area hockey dads have invented a soap-based detergent to curb the stench of hockey gear.

Hockey Sudz was first thought of when the dads got stuck in an SUV with six young puck-shooting girls and their foul-smelling bags while waiting for a ferry to arrive.

"Anybody that's ever played hockey knows that stench. Anybody that's ever had a child that's played hockey knows that stench. It is unmistakably hockey," Keith Howlett said.

He and Bill McDougall, through some trial and error, designed the product to fight odor and to not break down the glue that holds hockey gear together. As players sweat, salts, ammonia and urea soak from their bodies into the gear. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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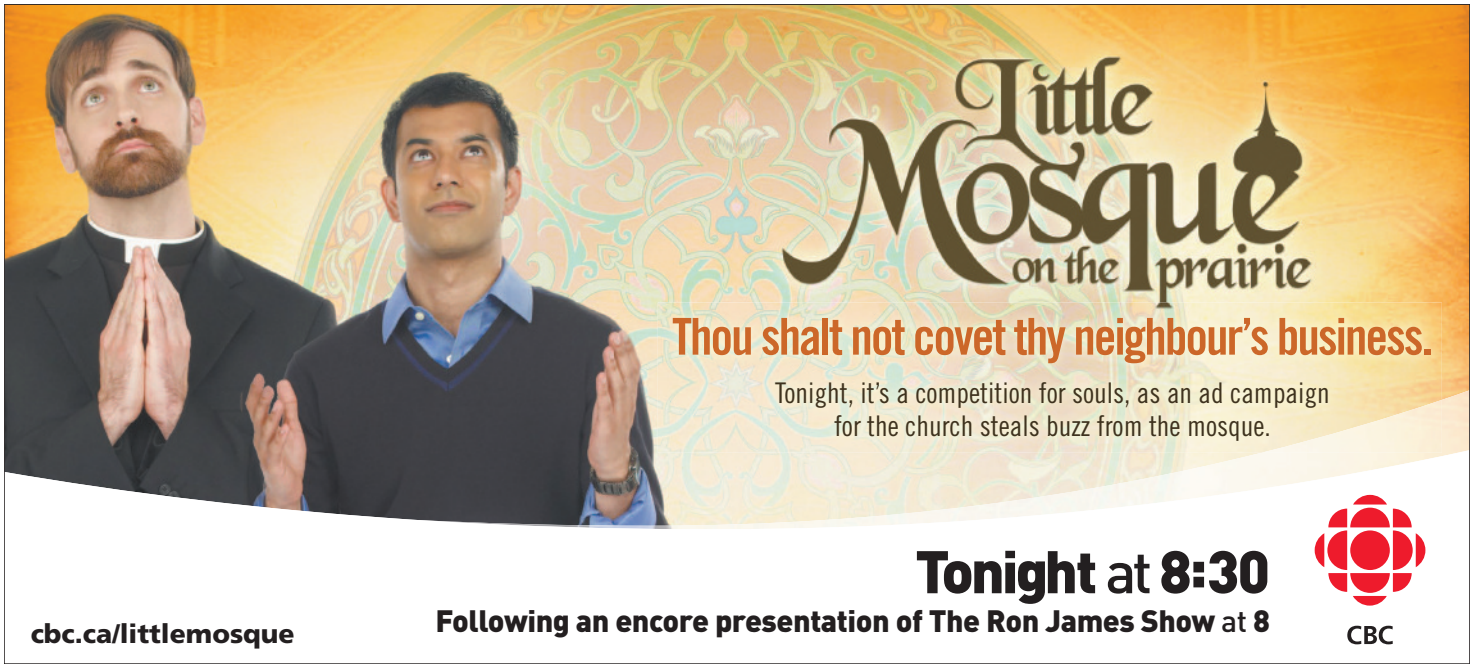
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cbc.ca/littlemosque
CBC

City joins movement to end violence against women

The City of Vancouver has joined We Can in its movement to end violence against women. The campaign involves "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence" beginning this Wednesday, which is International Day Against Violence Against Women. It ends on Dec. 10, International Human Rights Day. **METRO VANCOUVER**

In-depth homeless project launched

A $110-million research project that takes homeless people with mental illness off the streets in five cities and provides them with a safe place to live was officially launched today.

It's the first such effort by the new Mental Health Commission of Canada.

The pilot study, called the At Home/Chez Soi project, involves 2,285 people who are homeless and living with a mental illness in five cities — Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal and Moncton.

By the numbers

- There are an estimated 300,000 homeless people in Canada, statistics show.

Altogether, 1,325 people will be given a place to live and social services over the course of the five-year study, while the others will receive services that are currently available. One of the goals is to find out more about what works well in providing services to homeless people.

Dr. Jayne Barker, director of the project, said each city will have a particular focus. People who have a recurring substance abuse problem will be the target in Vancouver.

"We need to really improve our ability to intervene successfully with that population, and to be honest, we don't do that well," Barker said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RCMP seek driver in sex assault case

STIG NIELSEN
for Metro Vancouver

CRIME Coquitlam RCMP are looking for a man who may have spoken with a 15-year-old girl prior to a sexual assault Saturday morning.

As the victim walked by the Port Coquitlam Recreation Complex, the driver of a newer model, black, round-bodied vehicle with silver rims, tinted windows and four doors apparently tried to talk to her.

That man is a person of interest only, not a suspect.

The attacker is described as balding at the front with a deep voice, prominent cheekbones and normal teeth.

The girl was forced into a bush and raped near Tyner Street and Kelly Avenue shortly after getting off a bus.

News in brief

SHOOTING Police in northern B.C. have launched an investigation after a man was shot during a confrontation with a Mountie Saturday in Smithers. The 24-year-old was hit when the officer was dragged while attempting to stop a suspected stolen truck.

BODY A man's body has been found in Abbotsford. A witness reported a man lying facedown in a water-filled ditch in the 1100 block of Sumas Way on Saturday.

STABBING Two men have been arrested by Burnaby RCMP after a stabbing early Saturday morning. A woman in her 30s was found in Charles Rummel Park, screaming after suffering multiple stab wounds.

FERRIES The last of the fast cat ferries bought by the NDP in the late 1990s is expected to be shipped to the Persian Golf today. B.C. paid $450 million for the seldom-used vessels that were recently sold to a buyer in the United Arab Emirates for about $20 million.

LAYOFFS Two hundred employees have been fired at three senior care centres including one in Coquitlam. Their former employer is rumoured to be bankrupt, cknw.com reports.

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New bishop appointed for troubled N.S. diocese

The bishop appointed to oversee a Nova Scotia diocese tainted by sex abuse allegations and child porn charges says he recognizes it will take time to bring people back to the embattled church. Bishop Brian Dunn was appointed Saturday to take over the diocese of Antigonish. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

PM snubs reporters at free-media talk

Prime Minister Stephen Harper urged journalists to "shine light into dark corners" of government affairs during a speech Saturday, but wouldn't take questions from reporters covering the event. Harper, who is known for his sometimes prickly relationship with parliamentary reporters, made the comments during an ethnic media awards dinner in Markham, Ont. Freedom for Canadians goes hand-in-hand with journalistic freedom, he told those gathered at Seneca College. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reviving sagging Ignatieff

New Liberal chief of staff wants cerebral leader to be himself

Michael Ignatieff isn't a Tim Hortons kind of guy — and that suits his new chief of staff just fine.

Peter Donolo has spent his first week on the job reminding Liberals that party icon Pierre Trudeau wasn't exactly a donut shop everyman either and that didn't stop Canadians from electing him four times as prime minister.

The trouble for the current Liberal leader is that the Tories have successfully turned his resumé as an internationally acclaimed intellectual and former Harvard professor into a liability. To hear them tell it, Ignatieff is an elitist academic who's "in it for himself" and "just visiting" Canada after working more than 30 years abroad.

Donolo's goal is to turn that negative back into a positive.

He isn't talking publicly, but according to party insiders with whom he's spoken, Donolo's assessment of the party's sagging fortunes is as follows:

Ignatieff and his inner circle have allowed themselves to be spooked by the Tory attack ads. Consequently, they've played down Ignatieff's lofty academic and intellectual credentials.

Donolo believes his task is to allow Ignatieff to be himself and to build on his strength as a thoughtful, insightful deep thinker.

His aim is to position Ignatieff as a leader who's better able to grapple with the weighty issues and thorny challenges ahead, as opposed to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who is so devoted to the appearance of the common man that he chose to attend the opening of a new Tim Hortons shop rather than a speech to the United Nations general assembly on the environment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Michael Ignatieff

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P.E.I. Torch reaches Green Gables

BRIAN MCINNIS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Olympic hockey great Cassie Campbell-Pascal arrives with the 2010 Olympic torch in a horse and buggy at the gate of the famous Anne of Green Gables House yesterday in Cavendish, P.E.I. Follow the Olympic torch's journey with an interactive map at metronews.ca/sports.

News in brief

SEARCH After four days of scanning the Atlantic, U.S. and Canadian authorities have scaled back their search for a solo sailor from Nova Scotia who was caught in a violent storm as he sailed to Bermuda. Hubert Marcoux, a 67-year-old author and adventurer, left the province Nov. 9 and was supposed to reach Bermuda last Monday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Canadian warship takes up anti-piracy duties
A Canadian warship has begun anti-piracy duties off the coast of east Africa. HMCS Fredericton will spend the next six months patrolling in the Gulf of Aden and off the Horn of Africa. Fredericton's skipper Cmdr. Steve Waddell says the frigate is more than prepared to deal with piracy attacks on merchant shipping. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dion's wife scolds Iggy

The outspoken wife of former Liberal leader Stéphane Dion has written a scathing letter in which she questions Michael Ignatieff's ability to lead the party out its current woes.

In a note published on her Facebook page and subsequently circulated among party members, Janine Krieber wrote Friday that the party was in full collapse and the future appeared bleak.

A fellow university professor, Krieber said party members were duped by Ignatieff and would have recognized his obvious shortcomings if they'd only taken the time to read his academic writings.

She also said the party would pay for refusing to endorse a historic left-wing coalition in an attempt to oust the Conservatives last December.

Hands off

- Sources say Dion, a Montreal MP, was not involved in producing the note and that people in his camp persuaded Krieber to delete the message earlier Saturday.

She writes that her husband was working to rebuild the party after last year's disappointing election result but had those efforts short-circuited by Ignatieff, who first dethroned Dion without a leadership race and then dumped the idea of forming a coalition with the other opposition parties.

"Stephane was ready to take the time and the shots (against him) in order to rebuild the party," she said.

"But they (party members) didn't accept the 26 per cent (of the popular vote in the last election). Now we're at 23."

The Canadian Press obtained a copy of the note, which has since been deleted, where she openly questions whether current Leader Michael Ignatieff is the one to lead the party out of its funk.

A spokesman for Ignatieff couldn't deny its existence but added that by the time he checked the page, there was no sign of the note.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Twitter causing quite the stir on Parliament

OTTAWA Members of Parliament are scrambling to climb aboard the Twitter bandwagon — and getting elbowed by controversial, satirical and even phoney postings.

Victims of fake Twitter accounts now include Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Senator Mike Duffy, the former CTV journalist.

And satirical accounts currently make fun of NDP Leader Jack Layton's moustache and Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff's cat.

As for controversy, Liberal MP Michelle Simson recently had to apologize to Tory MP Dean Del Mastro after tweeting the following during a committee meeting: "In committee this morning. M.P. Del Mastro should grow up (not out)." That was followed by: "Gosh, I hate to see a grown M.P. pout. Smile, Dean."

The incident prompted New Democrat MP Charlie Angus to complain Twitter has been turning MPs into Grade 9 cheerleaders and jocks in the school cafeteria.

Despite the pitfalls and embarrassments though, politicians say social networking is an effective way to connect with constituents and others.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Authorities investigating radiation release at Three Mile Island

A small amount of radiation has been detected in a reactor building at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in central Pennsylvania. Officials say there is no public health risk. The plant was the site of a major nuclear accident in 1979. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Record storms pounding Britain

Police and army experts say they're urgently checking the safety of about 1,800 bridges in northern England amid some of the worst storms ever recorded in Britain. Heavy rainfall has ravaged England's popular Lake District, with more than 1,000 homes flooded and several river crossings destroyed. Police said yesterday that concerns over the safety of bridges have crippled the region's road network. A police officer was swept to his death Friday when a major bridge collapsed close to Cockermouth, the hardest-hit town. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Defendants want to air grievances

9-11 The five men facing trial in the Sept. 11 attacks will plead not guilty so that they can air their criticisms of U.S. foreign policy, the lawyer for one of the defendants said yesterday.

Scott Fenstermaker, the lawyer for accused terrorist Ali Abd al-Aziz Ali, said the men would not deny their role in the 2001 attacks but "would explain what happened and why they did it."

Ali, also known as Ammar al-Baluchi, is a nephew of professed 9-11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

Mohammed, Ali and the others will explain "their assessment of American foreign policy," Fenstermaker said.

"Their assessment is negative," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

China mine blast kills 104

When gas levels suddenly spiked deep in the Xinxing coal mine, Wang Jiguo grabbed two co-workers and they ran for their lives. Minutes later, there was a huge bang, a torrent of hot air and the earth shuddered.

The death toll two days later was up to 104, with four still missing, the official Xinhua news agency said. The deadliest accident in China's mining industry for two years has highlighted how heavy demand for power-generating coal comes at a high human cost.

"Development is important, but the growth of GDP shouldn't be achieved at the price of miners' blood," said provincial governor Li Zhanshu, urging officials to better manage coal mines.

The blast at the nearly 100-year-old mine in Heilongjiang province, near the Russian border, dealt a blow to the central government's race to improve safety, which has seen the shuttering or absorbing of hundreds of smaller, private mines into state-owned operations.

Of the 528 people reported working in the mine at the time of the explosion, 420 escaped, Xinhua reported. At the Hegang Mining Group General Hospital, which a spokesman said was treating 32 injured miners, a few were in the intensive care unit under police guard. Survivors recounted their harrowing escapes. In an account reported by Xinhua, Wang, 35, who monitored gas levels in the shaft, suddenly grabbed two other workers near him and started scrambling to the door, shouting: "Run quickly, don't carry anything!"

Authorities say the four miners still missing are trapped about half a kilometre underground.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

Rescuers on a trolley prepare to enter the site of the gas explosion at the Xinxing Mine in China.

"Development is important, but the growth of the GDP shouldn't be achieved at the price of miners' blood."
Li Zhanshu, governor, Heilongjiang province

Bill moves on for debate

HEALTH CARE U.S. Senate Democrats, without a vote to spare, pushed forward a bill to overhaul the American health care system, but a divisive debate still lies ahead and there is no assurance the measure — as written — will win approval in the upper chamber of the Congress.

In a rare weekend session, the Senate voted 60-39 to move the health care reform legislation to the floor for a full debate, expected to begin after lawmakers return from the U.S. Thanksgiving recess. The 60 votes were the minimum needed under Senate rules to overcome Republican legislative manoeuvers to prevent the bill from even being debated.

The legislation would extend coverage to roughly 31 million Americans without insurance, crack down on insurance company practices that deny or dilute benefits and curtail the growth of spending on medical care nationally.

Saturday's vote was hailed as a victory for President Barack Obama.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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With Republicans promising a no vote, internal squabbling among Democrats is the bill's biggest obstacle. Scan this code for the full story.

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News in brief

INDONESIA Rescuers saved more than 240 people aboard a passenger ferry that sank yesterday in rough waters off Sumatra island, but 29 people have died and at least 17 others were missing, officials said. A second ferry ran aground nearby, but all its passengers were said to be safe. Indonesian ferry accidents have killed hundreds of people in recent years.

TEHRAN Iran yesterday began large-scale air defence war games aimed at protecting its nuclear facilities from attack, state TV reported, as an air force commander boasted the country could deter any military strike by Israel. It said the five-day drill will cover an area a third of the size of the country. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Battle for the planet
Award-winning Canadian writer Cleo Paskal examines the conflicts around environmentalism in her latest book Global Warring: How Environmental, Economic and Political Crises Will Redraw The World Map. Hardcover, $32.95. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Going Green

In the beginning ...

Greenpeace Canada has released Amchitka — a live CD of the 1970 Vancouver concert that launched Greenpeace. The album features performances by Canadian songstress Joni Mitchell, James Taylor and Phil Ochs. Visit amchitka-concert.com to buy the CD. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

GDP does not reflect well-being

Eco-**Minded**

In two weeks, world leaders will descend on Copenhagen to negotiate a new climate change agreement. Stakes are high, yet many observers' hopes are low. Canada, in particular, is poised to disappoint. Why?

Our politicians are fearful. A new TD Bank-sponsored study shows that, under a recommended 10-year climate action plan, Canadians' incomes would continue to rise countrywide. However, GDP growth in Alberta and Saskatchewan could slow down. Apparently, that's too big a political risk. So, just what is this precious GDP?

GDP — gross domestic product — estimates the value of all the things produced by a country in a year. It was invented in the 1940s to figure out how to win the war without driving up prices.

GDP was never meant to measure quality of life. In fact, those who developed it warned explicitly against confusing GDP with well-being. Yet today's economists argue we're now making precisely that mistake. Why? It's simple: GDP is easier to measure.

Sadly, a narrow focus on GDP produces twisted outcomes: bad things seem good and good things seem irrelevant. Costly car accidents, prison construction, over-exploiting natural resources — you name it — these all boost GDP. If there's money flowing through a cash register, it's "good." If not — as with a clean environment, product quality, neighbourhood safety — it doesn't count.

GDP tells us nothing about sustainability, let alone fairness or security. Maybe it's time to remind our leaders that there's more to life than producing more stuff.

Kai Chan is an assistant professor and Canada Research Chair at the Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability (IRES) at UBC. Jordan Levine is a PhD student at IRES and at UBC's Liu Centre for Global Issues.

Rocking the water

Online music project aims for cleaner shorelines

KUMAR SAHA
Metro Canada

Mark Mattson doesn't like a sign that says "don't swim, don't drink, don't fish" on a waterfront.

As the president of Lake Ontario Waterkeeper, Mattson has been leading a crusade against water pollution along with other grassroots Waterkeeper and Riverkeeper organizations across Canada for almost a decade. So, when the time came to step up the battle for cleaner shorelines and waterways, the choice for naming the latest salvo was clear.

"What we are really fighting for is public access to clean water — fish habitat, drinking water and recreation. So, we took off the 'don't' and that became sort of our model," Mattson, 47, tells Metro.

With some rock 'n' roll thrown in the mix, Swim Drink Fish Music (swimdrinkfishmusic.com) was born.

Launched in June this year, the online music and audio project brings together activists, musicians and artists who care about clean water. The website features exclusive songs from iconic rockers such as The Tragically Hip's Gord Downie and Bruce Cockburn as well as indie artists like Stars and Apostle of Hustle.

Swim Drink Fish Music is an online forum that brings together musicians and activists in the fight against water pollution.

In fact, Downie, with a little help from alt-country rockers The Sadies, is Swim Drink Fish Music's featured artist for this month with a rousing rendition of Randy Newman's Louisiana 1927, a song that has deep significance for water issues.

"As an environmental justice group, we are small and we need a lot of people, not just environmentalists involved. (We need) musicians … lending their talents, singing songs, helping us with concerts. People like Downie, (Canadian singer-songwriters) Sarah Harmer and Dave Bidini started understanding and getting to know the issues, being more than just creative inspirations.

There's a lot more to Swim Drink Fish Music than just hanging out at a virtual rock club. The online forum also sheds light on some of the burning issues at hand in conventional ways — through radio shows and podcasts, including a Canadianized version of celebrity environmentalist Robert F. Kennedy Jr's Ring of Fire program.

But Mattson acknowledges that the musical hook works as a calling card for the fledgling Waterkeepers.

Bidini echoes a similar sentiment. Swim Drink Fish Music's featured artist for September, the former Rheostatics guitarist contributed a 30-song suite about "the water/the lake/the land" to the website. He hopes that his set will draw his fans to the cause. "Come for the music, stay for one's conscience," Bidini says.

Getting involved

- Membership for Swim Drink Fish Music is $10 per year. Visit swimdrinkfishmusic.com for more information.

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Comment

Saying bye to TransLink's 'Messier'

It has been a brutal fall for TransLink, Metro Vancouver's transportation authority. Earlier this month, CEO Tom Prendergast resigned his post and announced plans to head up New York City Transit. It's a nice career move for the straight-talking American — who likened his job offer to being asked to play in Yankee Stadium — but it leaves TransLink directionless at a time when the organization needs him the most.

After all, this came days after Metro Vancouver's mayors voted in a $130-million stabilization plan that would keep TransLink going, but would require controversial new revenue streams, including higher fares. Even then, the funding falls far short of the gold-plated budget TransLink was pushing for.

And one day after Prendergast bolted from TransLink, a report by B.C. comptroller-general Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland found the organization to have "significant operational issues." Her report was also critical of TransLink's glut of well-compensated senior executives.

The optics on this point alone were horrible. How could the region justify handing over hundreds of millions of dollars to a transit agency that was being accused of maintaining a bloated bureaucracy?

But that's a diversion from the real story here — the showdown that should have happened between TransLink and the province over funding priorities. Prendergast was just the guy to win that kind of back-alley brawl with Victoria. But he took the high road — otherwise known as wimping out.

Fair or not, TransLink will be the scapegoat for the standstill in public transit investment. The provincial government remains unscathed politically — which gives it a blank cheque to continue prioritizing highways and bridges over buses and trains.

As for Prendergast? Sure, New York probably has the right guy for the job.

But his legacy in Vancouver — to draw from another sports analogy — brings back bitter memories of Mark Messier. The arrival of the New York hockey messiah to GM Place more than a decade ago fuelled championship aspirations for the home side. But Messier never did get the job done here.

Apparently, you can win big on Broadway and still not stand a chance at Broadway and Granville.

Derek Moscato is a writer with a focus on urban issues, transportation, architecture and economics; dmoscato@yahoo.com.

Views

Squirrels can drive you nutty over the holidays

Today we begin a series on "Prepping for the holidays." First up, how to avoid those pesky "what-the-hell-was-I-thinking?" holiday moments. A what-the-hell-was-I-thinking? is anything that seemed like a good idea at the time, even though everyone else could see disaster coming a mile off.

What-the-hell-was-I-thinking's are common around any major holiday. Suddenly, "holiday head" sets in and we find ourselves thinking, "Gosh, it would be fun to invite both sides of the family to dinner" in spite of what happened the last six years, or "I'm sure everyone will prefer a tofu turkey because it's kinder to animals."

There is a solution. You can avoid a what-the-hell-was-I-thinking? by following this simple plan.

Pause.

Now ask yourself one all-important question. "Is there any possible way that what I am planning to do could lead me to end up with an angry squirrel trapped in a metal garbage can?"

Perhaps I should explain.

A half-hour ago, I went into my backyard to feed the birds, accidentally leaving the lid off the metal garbage can that holds my birdseed. I came back onto the deck. A scuffling from the can. The black squirrel that rules my backyard was inside the can, munching seed. Instantly, I threw the lid on. "Hah!" I rejoiced, "I've trapped the nasty, evil squirrel in a can!" This was followed immediately by, "Oh my God. I've trapped the nasty, evil squirrel in a can!"

I now have three options. A) Remove the lid and possibly get my face chewed off. B) Never, ever remove the lid and never be able to use the can, birdseed or possibly my deck ever again. Or C) Do what any sensible woman would do. Call my partner to come home from hockey practice and let the squirrel out of the can. She has a face mask.

So, before you issue invitations, plan a menu or even think about presents, ask whether squirrels, metal cans or hockey masks are likely to become involved in any way. And let's all have a what-the-hell-was-I-thinking? free holiday.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Wheat board gives out farmers' information
The Canadian Wheat Board, apparently for no reason, shared "sensitive information" about farmers with companies that buy and handle grain, says a newly released document. An internal audit says the wheat board couldn't explain why it sent farmers' "confidential personal financial data" to the taxman and so-called handling agents. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

DOLLAR	GAS	OIL	TSX
US 93.47¢ (Friday's close)	US $4.42 (Friday's close)	US $76.72 (Friday's close)	11,579.33 (Friday's close)

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Who's the 'fastest'?

WIRELESS Cellphone users are routinely hit with the buzz words "fastest" and "most reliable" when it comes to wireless networks.

So who has Canada's fastest wireless service? Is it Rogers, Bell or Telus?

Technology watchers say consumers will have a hard time telling the difference, despite the claims each network makes.

"Broadly speaking in a dense urban area ... you are going to tend to get about the same speed on each network," said technology analyst Duncan Stewart.

Nevertheless, Telus is suing Rogers in an attempt to force its competitor to abandon long-standing claims to having Canada's fastest and most reliable network. Rogers has said it stands behind its claims.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

CADBURY Hershey Co. may make a $17-billion US bid for UK candy company Cadbury PLC, topping the recent $16.5-billion hostile offer by Kraft Foods Inc., the Wall Street Journal reported Friday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hydro deal worries

NB Power sale has business leaders concerned

The governor of Maine is worried about the proposed mega sale of NB Power to Hydro-Quebec and is eager to voice his concerns with Quebec Premier Jean Charest.

The prospect of Hydro-Quebec becoming a regional powerhouse following last month's $4.75-billion deal has not only stoked fears in the office of Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams, but also among politicians and business leaders in New England.

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In the tentative agreement, Hydro-Quebec would take over the majority of NB Power's assets — including transmission lines to Maine — and add more than 370,000 customers to its base.

The deal is expected to be finalized in March.

The proposal would not only give Hydro-Quebec more access to lucrative markets in the northeastern United States, it would also place the province in a strategic position to cut off its Maritime competitors — including those who have been eyeing their own energy-export opportunities to New England.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Banks heading for strong finish?

BANKING Canada's biggest banks are expected to report a relatively strong finish to the financial year when they start reporting fourth-quarter earnings tomorrow, but their capital markets divisions could leave investors jittery about the future.

"It's going to be a good quarter, for sure, for capital markets, but there may be room for disappointment if people have overestimated just how good it's going to be," said Brad Smith, an analyst at Blackmont Capital.

COLIN CONDY/POSTMEDIA NEWS SERVICE

Analysts expect banks to report good earnings but are worried that people may have overestimated how good they would be.

Analysts will be closely monitoring the capital markets divisions, which have powered the last couple quarters and helped drive profits at the banks.

An estimate by Genuity Capital Markets puts overall trading revenue in the Canadian banks up 125 per cent so far this year over last, which is worth about $5.5 billion.

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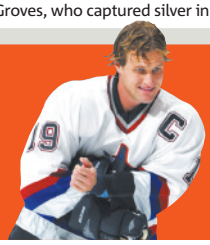
Groves wins speedskating gold

Ottawa's Kristina Groves won gold yesterday in the women's 1,500-metre race at a World Cup long-track speedskating competition. Groves, who captured silver in the distance at the 2006 Olympics, crossed the line in one minute 55.16 seconds. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports



Naslund to return to the ice

Following Peter Forsberg, Markus Naslund, 36, left, is now returning to the ice to play for Modo, the local Swedish Elite League team, which has struggled recently. The two have volunteered their services and will not collect a salary. Naslund, a former Canuck, retired in May. "I still felt that I made the right choice in retiring," he said. "This was just a different scenario with coming back here and playing in my hometown because I'm helping the team." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lions routed by Alouettes

CFL RESULT

B.C. 18 **Montreal** 56

Not even their nemesis the B.C. Lions could stop Anthony Calvillo and the Montreal Alouettes in the CFL East Division final.

Calvillo equalled a league playoff record with five touchdown passes and the Alouettes defence stuffed hot quarterback Casey Printers and the Lions' running game in a 56-18 romp before 53,792 roaring fans at Olympic Stadium yesterday afternoon.

That put the Alouettes into their seventh Grey Cup game since 2000 next Sunday in Calgary.

"No matter how many points we put up, the objective was to win," said the 37-year-old Calvillo.

"It was exciting to do what we did today, I'll enjoy it, but we have to get ready for next week."

Montreal had a dominant 15-3 season while B.C. was only 8-10, but the East final was widely seen as a toss-up because of the strong form Printers showed after joining the Lions in September and because the Alouettes have a history of struggles against their rival from Vancouver.

The near-sellout crowd saw the Montreal defence force five turnovers and hold running back Martell Mallett, who had gained 213 yards in a win over the Alouettes this season, to five yards on six carries. The B.C. running game had only 12 total yards.

"They were better than us, that's it," said B.C. all-star defensive end Ricky Foley.

"Up front, in the back end, offence, defence — you don't get beat like that and have too many good parts of the game."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Montreal Alouettes Jamal Richardson, right, straight arms B.C. Lions Ryan Phillips during the CFL Eastern Final at Olympic Stadium yesterday in Montreal.

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Grey Cup to feature a slice of history

CFL The 97th Grey Cup will be a historic one.

For the first time in the game's illustrious history, the Montreal Alouettes and Saskatchewan Roughriders will meet to decide the '09 CFL championship at McMahon Stadium on Sunday.

The Roughriders advanced to the Grey Cup with a thrilling 27-17 home victory over the Calgary Stampeders, thanks to two second-half touchdown passes from Darian Durant to snap a 10-10 half-time tie with the defending Grey Cup champions.

The win will earn Saskatchewan its second title shot in three years, in addition to its first-ever championship meeting with Montreal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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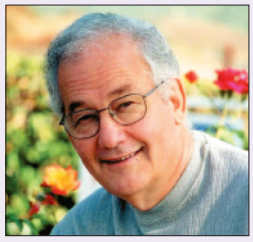

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Real Salt Lake wins MLS title

Robbie Russell scored in the seventh round of penalty kicks and Real Salt Lake beat the Los Angeles Galaxy 5-4 on penalties for its first MLS title. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canucks blanked by Blackhawks

NHL

Blackhawks 1 Canucks 0

AT

Bryan Bickell scored the lone goal of the game and Antti Niemi made 30 saves as the Chicago Blackhawks blanked the Vancouver Canucks 1-0 in NHL action last night.

Bickell was questionable after leaving Saturday's game in Edmonton in the first period after colliding with Dustin Penner and falling to the ice as his helmet came off. But Bickell showed no ill effects while playing on Chicago's top line with Chicago captain Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane, who saw his nine-game points streak, one of the longest in the NHL this season, come to an end.

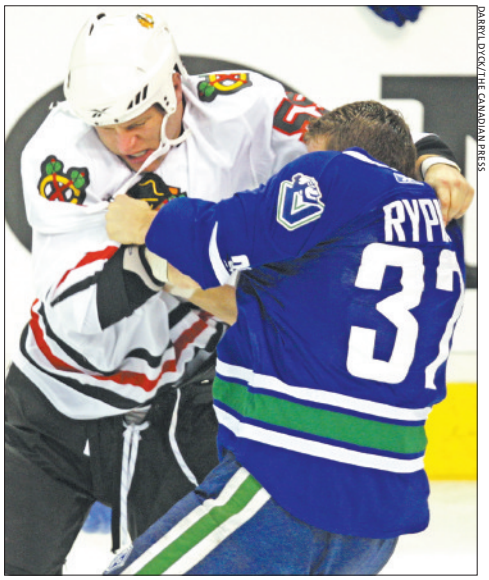
The Blackhawks (15-5-2) extended their winning streak to seven games as they avenged a loss to the Canucks (12-11-0) earlier this season.

Bickell finally opened the scoring at 1:12 of the third period as he poked the puck in after it caromed off skates and came to him in front of a gaping Vancouver net.

Niemi earned his second shutout of the season while the Blackhawks managed only 17 shots on Vancouver goaltender Roberto Luongo.

Vancouver had prolific forward Daniel Sedin back in the lineup after he missed 18 games with a broken bone in his foot. He suffered the injury Oct. 17 against Dallas.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chicago Blackhawk Ben Eager, left, and Vancouver Canuck Rick Rypien fight last night in Vancouver.

Impact to Major League Soccer a done deal?

It'sCalledFootball

metronews.ca/itscalledfootball

It's a little like breaking the news that the sun will rise today or, perhaps, that politicians are corrupt. It's expected and, frankly, when it happens, no one is really all that surprised. So when I got a call Thursday from a source to tell me the Montreal Impact had reached an agreement with MLS to join the league, my reaction was, "Well, that makes sense."

President Joey Saputo and the Impact have been dancing with the MLS for months. It was less a tango and more like a Grade 8 prom — lots of stumbling and plenty of awkwardness.

Montreal could have closed this deal in 2008 if not for financial commitment issues from its partners, but now it appears the deal is done and Montreal will be joining MLS in 2012.

Three independent sources have confirmed that Montreal has agreed on the $35-million US expansion fee and the team will be announced this March.

After accepting an invitation to attend the MLS Cup festivities, Saputo spent the past weekend in Seattle, meeting with league officials to finalize the deal.

The Impact will pay less than the original $40-million US asking price but will enter the league a year after Vancouver and will be faced with a myriad of domestic player issues as they wade into the shallow Canadian player pool.

Watch Ben Rycroft on the It's Called Football show every Monday at metronews.ca; ben.rycroft@metronews.ca

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	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
d-San Jose	25	16	5	4	85	62	36
d-Chicago	22	15	5	2	70	49	32
d-Colorado	23	13	7	3	69	67	29
Calgary	21	13	6	2	67	59	28
Los Angeles	24	13	9	2	73	75	28
Columbus	21	12	6	3	65	72	27
Phoenix	23	13	9	1	59	55	27
Detroit	21	11	6	4	67	61	26
Dallas	22	10	6	6	68	65	26
Nashville	21	12	8	1	50	56	25
VANCOUVER	**23**	**12**	**11**	**0**	**67**	**60**	**24**
Edmonton	23	9	11	3	68	75	21
St. Louis	20	8	8	4	48	50	20
Minnesota	22	8	12	2	54	68	18
Anaheim	21	7	11	3	60	73	17

d - division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Chicago 1 **VANCOUVER** 0
Tampa Bay 4 Atlanta 3 (OT)

SATURDAY'S RESULTS
Calgary 5 Los Angeles 2
Ottawa 5 Buffalo 3
Toronto 2 Washington 1 (SO)
Chicago 5 Edmonton 2
Detroit 3 Montreal 2 (SO)
Carolina 3 Tampa Bay 1
Dallas 5 New Jersey 3
Florida 3 N.Y. Rangers 2
Nashville 4 Columbus 3 (SO)
Phoenix 3 Philadelphia 1
Pittsburgh 3 Atlanta 2
San Jose 3 Anaheim 2
St. Louis 4 N.Y. Islanders 1

CFL

DIVISION FINALS
EAST
Montreal 56 British Columbia 18
WEST
Saskatchewan 27 Calgary 17

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Orlando 104 Toronto 96
Boston 107 New York 105 (OT)
Charlotte 104 Indiana 88
Miami 102 New Orleans 101
Phoenix 117 Detroit 91
L.A. Lakers 101 Oklahoma City 85

NFL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Dallas 7 Washington 6
Detroit 38 Cleveland 37
Green Bay 30 San Francisco 24
Indianapolis 17 Baltimore 15
Jacksonville 18 Buffalo 15
Kansas City 27 Pittsburgh 24 (OT)
Minnesota 35 Seattle 9
New Orleans 38 Tampa Bay 7
N.Y. Giants 34 Atlanta 31 (OT)
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New England 31 N.Y. Jets 14
San Diego 32 Denver 3
Oakland 20 Cincinnati 17
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Alberta goes back on plan to cap post-secondary tuition

Three years after the Alberta government announced it was capping post-secondary tuition rates for up to 10 years to ease the burden on students, the province is allowing cash-strapped institutions to apply for increases in 2010-11. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Co-eds binge more?

A new study published in the Journal of American College Health suggests that students living in coeducational housing are much more likely to engage in binge drinking than those in all-male or all-female housing. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

News in brief

EDUCATION If Canada's colleges, institutes, and polytechnics are to keep pace with its international competitors, the federal government must quickly ramp up its support for these institutions, says Association of Canadian Community Colleges president James Knight. While the ACCC praises Ottawa for implementing the Knowledge Infrastructure Program, the program falls short of the estimated $7 billion required to modernize and expand Canada's colleges, institutes, and polytechnics. In terms of capital investment, ACCC calls for a 5-year program that would make $2.5 billion available.

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More money, more problems

New study finds Canadians choosing personal life over personal wealth

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Canadians are more interested in leading fulfilling lives than they are in monetary or career success, a new study shows.

The study, conducted by market research firm Angus Reid, found that more than three quarters of Canadians (77 per cent) are focused more on their personal life experiences than their careers.

The study also found that when asked to prioritize different aspects of their lives, nearly half of Canadians (45 per cent) said that time with family and friends is most important to them, followed by a healthy lifestyle (17 per cent) and rich life experiences (15 per cent), with monetary (nine per cent) and career success (seven per cent) much less important to Canadians on average.

Jeremy Gutsche from Trendhunter.com, a magazine that tracks and reports on cultural trends, says life-fulfillment is proving to be a powerful career force for many Canadians.

"There are a lot of situations where people are seeking out fuller experiences. People want to enrich themselves, even if it means taking a pay cut," Gutsche said.

Thirty-seven per cent of respondents in the study also said the economic recession has made them re-evaluate what is important to them, less than 10 per cent said making more money or finding greater career success is their main priority.

In tougher economic times, Gutsche says people are more likely to reconsider their life priorities as people around them lose their jobs and start up new careers.

"Even if you don't lose your job, you see people lose their jobs and ask yourself, 'What if?' You might reconsider what's important to you," he said.

Master caterer Mike Thompson worked in the Vancouver film industry for 12 years before realizing he was missing out on time with the most important people in his life — his family. The pay was excellent but Thompson frequently worked up to 100 hours per week and hardly saw his children awake.

"My son told me he couldn't remember what I looked like. You wake up one day and realize you've missed a lot," Thompson said.

Two years ago he quit his job and opened his own sandwich shop, Duke's on Broadway in downtown Vancouver. He counts many of his former coworkers as customers now and while he makes less money on the bottom line, he gets to spend as much time every day with his family as he wants.

"Getting ahead was most important to me before. Now it's enjoying life."

The study shows that Canadians are choosing to enrich their lifestyles, even if it means taking a pay cut.

Findings

- 63 per cent of British Columbians believe they lead enriched lifestyles, the highest rate in the country

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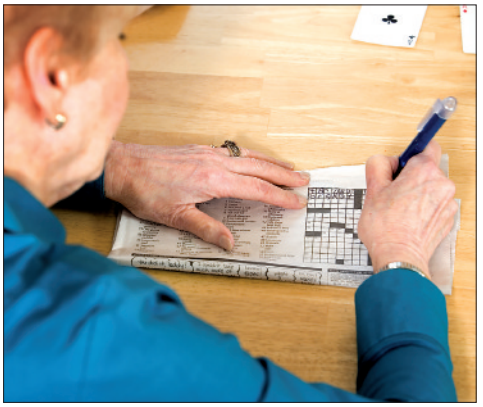
McMaster union angered by school's attempt to cut hours
The union representing McMaster University teaching and research assistants returning to work after a strike says the university is punishing them by reducing their first-term hours by eight per cent. McMaster says the union and the institution negotiated the return-to-work agreement. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Puzzled profession

How a prominent crossword creator climbed to the top

OddJobs


Kathleen Hamilton's crosswords challenge and entertain Canadians across the country everyday.

Talk about your late bloomer: one of Canada's foremost crossword writers only started doing crossword puzzles in her 50s.

"I always loved words and had a big vocabulary and was a big reader from an early age," says Kathleen Hamilton, now 67. The Montrealer was born in Saskatchewan and majored in French at the University of Saskatchewan. She ended up in Toronto, where she lived for 20 years, working as an editor.

But around the time she got into puzzles, chronic fatigue syndrome made working full-time a challenge. So she moved out to Victoria in 1997 to become a freelance writer.

Not long after the move, she read an article about how to write your own crosswords. Hamilton grabbed a piece of paper and gave it a try.

"I loved it. It was so engrossing, it was wonderful."

She bought crossword-making software and decided to produce four pamphlets of puzzles a year.

Realizing this plan would take far too much work, Hamilton soon created a larger annual book, put a big maple leaf on the cover, and hauled it to Toronto for the fall 1998 Word on the Street book and magazines fair.

When the publisher of the Toronto Star, John Honderich, walked by, she gave him a book. The following February, the Star called — readers were demanding more Canadian content in their puzzles.

Hamilton's North of 49 puzzle has been running on Saturdays ever since. It's now syndicated and appears in papers across the country.

When she's not crossword creating, Hamilton works on her business — she's currently self-publishing an annual collection — or spends time with her grandson.

Does she still love puzzles? She's actually tired of regular crosswords: she's now into Sudoku and cryptic crosswords.

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

The Lowdown

Job title: Crossword creator
Salary: "It's my sole source of income."
Education/training: A knowledge of puzzles and editing skills
Best Part of the Job: "I like working with words and I like the fact that people enjoy doing my crosswords."
Worst Part of the Job: Sometimes it's tedious. The pressure of deadlines."

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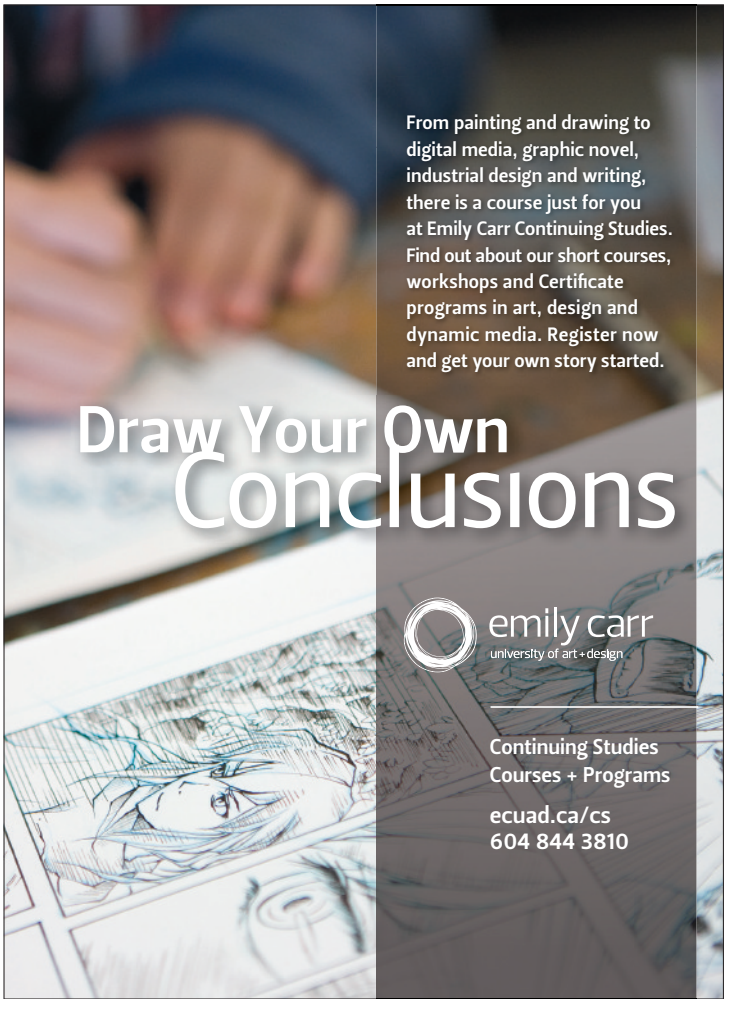
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Cyrus saddened by driver's death

After one of Miley Cyrus' tour buses crashed on the weekend, leaving the driver dead, the Cyrus family wrote a message on her website, expressing their condolences. "We are deeply saddened by the loss of Bill 'Uncle Bill' Douglas," the message read. **POPEATER.COM**

Entertainment

Close shave

Demi Moore is defending a photo of herself on the latest cover of W, insisting on Twitter that the image was not altered, even though a piece of her hip appears to have been shaved off. METRO WORLD NEWS

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Weekend box office

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres:

1. **The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** $140.7 million US
2. **The Blind Side:** $34.5 million
3. **2012:** $26.5 million
4. **Planet 51:** $12.6 million
5. **A Christmas Carol:** $12.6 million
6. **Precious:** $11 million
7. **The Men Who Stare at Goats:** $2.8 million
8. **Couples Retreat:** $2 million
9. **The Fourth Kind:** $1.7 million
10. **Law Abiding Citizen:** $1.6 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Road warrior

Mortensen throws himself into post-apocalyptic role

NED EHRBAR
for Metro Canada

Listening to Viggo Mortensen describe production on his latest film, the big-screen adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel The Road, you'd think he's been through the post-apocalyptic events of the book himself.

Viggo Mortensen and Kodi Smit-McPhee star in The Road, based on Cormac McCarthy's novel.

"At the end, there was a sense of satisfaction in having gotten through it OK," he says. "If the movie turns out well, then fine. But the actual experience was intense."

The movie indeed turned out well, with Mortensen already garnering Oscar buzz for his portrayal of an unnamed father navigating the ravaged, cannibal-lurking highways of the U.S. after an unnamed disaster, trying to keep his young son (newcomer Kodi Smit-McPhee) safe. But it was a role the actor wasn't originally interested in taking on.

"I was reluctant," he admits. "I initially said, 'I don't think so.' I said to my agent, 'I can't. I'm really worn out. I won't be focused.' And then I looked at the story and I thought, 'Well, being worn out? That works.'"

Once he'd signed on, Mortensen threw himself into his usual process for preparing for a role.

"I tried to do things that I thought would be helpful, like listening to certain kinds of music, watching certain kinds of movies to get me in a certain state where I could go to those places that the character demanded emotionally," he says.

The Road opens in theatres on Friday.

But the usual techniques didn't work for this project, Mortensen found. "It was very different than any other role in the sense of how much I had to throw away. It's about being naked emotionally and just being honest about it," he says.

Production on the film took them out into the wilds of Pennsylvania, Oregon and Louisiana, exposing cast and crew to the elements.

Mortensen says it was that aspect that really pushed his performance to where it needed to be.

"As much as we didn't like it, the fact that we were so cold and we were wet all the time and tired actually helped us," he says. "Let's say it hadn't been a relatively low-budget movie and it had been shot with green screen. It just wouldn't have been the same. It forced us to places emotionally."

One scene stood out above the others for Mortensen, as far as surviving the elements goes: Late in the film, his character has to swim out to a wrecked ship to scavenge, racing completely naked into the churning surf.

"It was cold," Mortensen remembers. "Very cold. I asked for another take, but they didn't want me to. They were terrified. They had ambulances standing by. The water was about 41 F, and the air temperature was the same.

"I just sat in the ambulance in a bathrobe and said, 'Just tell me when you're rolling. I'm just going to run out and go.'"

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Jackson makes AMA history with four posthumous wins

MUSIC Michael Jackson made history by winning four American Music Awards yesterday night, but he couldn't beat Taylor Swift as the year's favourite artist. The 19-year-old took the evening's top award, giving Jackson his only loss of the night.

Jackson was nominated for five awards, just one shy of nominee leader Swift. He was named favourite male artist in the pop/rock and soul/R&B categories. His 2003 greatest-hits album, Number Ones, also won favourite album in both categories.

The only other award he was vying for was the evening's final trophy, entertainer of the year, along with Lady Gaga, the Kings of Leon, Eminem and Swift. She was named favourite female pop/rock artist and her album, Fearless, won best country album.

Jermaine Jackson accepted two of his brother's awards, wearing a glittery white glove in tribute to Michael. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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For that price, you'd think you could get a pair

The shimmering, white glove Michael Jackson wore when he premiered his trademark moonwalk dance in 1983 was sold to a Hong Kong bidder for $420,000 including fees and taxes in a New York City auction of Jackson memorabilia. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Doc explores carbon trading

There is a scene in the new documentary Carbon Hunters where actor Harrison Ford has a chunk of hair ripped off his chest with hot wax, all in the name of helping save rainforests.

The clip from the Lost Here, Felt There public service video is an example of how far some will go to draw attention to the impact of global warming, and it fits well in a film about how far others will go to make money from it.

Carbon Hunters follows Shawn Burns, a new breed of entrepreneur who tries to earn a living putting a price on pollution.

As chief executive of Vancouver-based Carbon Credit Corp., Burns finds people who are cutting back their greenhouse gas emissions, generating what is called carbon credits.

These credits come from farmers in Alberta who have stopped turning the soil before planting a new crop, or those in India who are using treadle pumps for irrigation to replace carbon-emitting diesel pumps.

Burns, and other carbon hunting firms like his, package those credits and sell them to heavy industrial polluters.

"I think you can make money and save the planet at the same time. And I think you should," said Burns.

But not everyone sees buying and selling of pollution as an enviable business. Kevin Smith, of the environmental group Carbon Trade Watch, argues in the documentary that the so-called cap-and-trade system rewards large polluters and does little to stop global warming. Smith said it also gives some businesses the "environmental credibility they don't deserve."

Vancouver journalist Miro Cernetig, who wrote and directed the documentary, thought carbon trading was just a fad at first. "I was skeptical about it, and still am," Cernetig said in an interview.

But Cernetig said it's hard to ignore the global carbon market, which today is valued at more than $100 billion.

Europe has a full carbon market, currently the world's largest, while the U.S. is close to setting up its own system. In Canada, some carbon credits are traded through the Montreal Climate Exchange.

"Nobody knows if cap-and-trade will work. A lot of smart people think it will, a lot of smart people think it won't."
Miro Cernetig, documentary filmmaker

Cernetig said the jury is still out on how viable the carbon market is long-term, given the commodity is essentially invisible. "Nobody knows if cap-and-trade will work. A lot of smart people think it will, a lot of smart people think it won't," he said.

Cernetig's film also explains how Canadians helped create the carbon trading model.

The idea came from Canadian-born Maurice Strong, the former head of the then-national oil firm Petro-Canada and later Ontario Hydro, who suggested such a model when he was a United Nations official heading the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

Carbon Hunters, which is produced by Vancouver-based Force Four Entertainment, airs Thursday night on CBC TV's Doc Zone.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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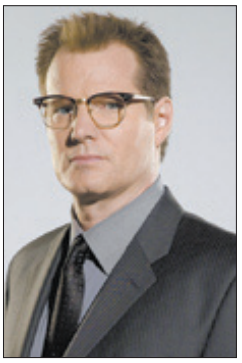
VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Ron James	Little Mosque	Just for Laughs (N) (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	254	-	8 OMNI	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		The Simpsons
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	Dancing With the Stars (Same-day Tape)		TBA		CSI: Miami "Kill Clause" (N)		CTV News
	-	-	10 JOY	Frasier (CC)	The Insider	Daily Weekend Edition (CC)		Poltergeist: The Legacy		Perspectives	Ek Noor	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	House "Ignorance Is Bliss" (N)		(:01) Lie to Me "Secret Santa"		Heroes "Thanksgiving" (N)		News
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N) (CC)	Gossip Girl (CC)		Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	Castle "One Man's Treasure"		A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	The Office	The Office	How I Met	Accidentally	Trauma "Thank You" (N)		The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC)		The CityNews
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	One Tree Hill (CC)		Gossip Girl (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	How I Met	Accidentally	Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	CSI: Miami "Kill Clause" (N)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Heroes "Thanksgiving" (N)		Trauma "Thank You" (N)		The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC)		KING 5 News
	602	568	19 W	Old Christine	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Grocery Bag	Love It or List It (N)		House-Sell	Divine Design	Love It-List It
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dancing With the Stars (Same-day Tape)			Family	Castle "One Man's Treasure"		KOMO 4 News
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	Lone Hero ★★ (2002, Action) Lou Diamond Phillips.				Seinfeld	King	Cheers (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Ask the Governor (CC)		Antiques Roadshow (N) (CC)		American Experience		Winged Migration ★★★ (2001, Documentary)		
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	House "Ignorance Is Bliss" (N)		(:01) Lie to Me "Secret Santa"		Q13 FOX News at Ten (N)		Family Guy
	-	364	29 PBS	Red Grange Remembers		Thorpe: Greatest Athlete		Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Antiques Roadshow (CC)	
	296	654	34 SBK	The Office	Name Is Earl	Frasier (CC)	'70s Show	South Park	Half & Half	Paid Program	Hatchett	Paid Program
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	One Tree Hill (CC)		Gossip Girl (CC)		KTLA Prime News (N) (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	38 WGN	NBA Basketball Chicago Bulls at Portland Trail Blazers. (Live) (CC)					WGN News	Friends (CC)	Maury (CC)	
	297	652	37 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	According-Jim	Family Guy	South Park	Scrubs (CC)
	199	311	73 STR	CTV News	NTV Latenight News		Late Show-Letterman		Late Late Show		Inside Edition	Seinfeld
news	502	390	23 NW	Catching Cancer (N) (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		Catching Cancer (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Hockey	Over the Bolts	UFC: Access	MMA Conn	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	NFL Football: Titans at Texans			SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		E:60 (CC)		Fort Strong	SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Ghost Hunters International		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman (CC)		Ghost Hunters International		Bounty Hunter
	410	403	24 SCR	WWE Monday Night Raw		Score Now	Score Now	WWE Monday Night Raw (CC)				Cabby Unlimit
	417	406	25 SC	Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy (N)	Pass Time	This Week in NASCAR		SuperCars	SuperCars	Auctions
	416	409	144 GLF	Fútbol: Equipos SA		Off the Pitch	Gol TV News	Off the Pitch	Game Cap	Paid Program	Gol TV News	Gol TV News
family	552	543	45 YTV	Drake & Josh	That's-Weird	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Scooby-Doo	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Chicken
	557	541	51 FAM	Sonny Chance	Zack & Cody	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
	553	546	55 TRE	Babar (CC)	Big & Small	Max & Ruby	Dragon	Backyard	Ni Hao	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Big Comfy
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Recreat. Eden	Landscape	Monarchy (CC)		James Houston: Interesting		Queen of Diamonds (CC)		Battlefield
	575	583	60 CMT	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Due South "Victoria's Secret"		Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Imp.
	570	580	62 MM	You Can Dance		One Tree Hill (CC)		Video on Trial	Video on Trial	MuchVibe		Spotlight
	600	564	63 H&G	House	House	Holmes on Homes (CC)		House Poor	Income Prop.	For Rent	My First Place	House
	615	520	61 A&E	Hoarders "Jake; Shirley"		Paranormal	Paranormal	(:01) Intervention "Anthony"		(:01) Intervention "Allison"		(:01) Hoarders
	628	584	82 SPKE	Disorderly	Disorderly Conduct: Video		I Bet You Will	Super Dave	Ways to Die	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Trek: Voyager
	521	560	64 TLC	Cake Boss (N)	Cake Boss (N)	Jon & Kate Plus 8 (CC)		Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Kate: Her Story (CC)		Jon & Kate
	616	522	93 SHO	The Outer Limits (CC)		Lethal Obsession (2007, Suspense) Kellie Martin. (CC)				Bones (CC)		NCIS (CC)
	620	523	70 BVO	Beethoven	Bravonews	Law & Order "Animal Instinct"		Without a Trace "Clean Up"		Mediterraneo ★★★ (1991, Comedy) (CC)		
	601	562	41 SLC	Plastic-Perfect	Plastic-Perfect	ET Canada	What	The Biggest Loser (CC)		How to Find a Husband (CC)		Trading Sp
	520	505	42 DIS	Canada's Worst Driver (N)		Daily Planet (CC)		MythBusters "Alcohol Myths"		Canada's Worst Driver		Dirty Jobs
	522	506	44 HIS	Battlefield Mysteries (CC)		Patton 360 (CC)		Battles BC (N) (CC)		Generation Kill "Stay Frosty" (CC)		
	627	528	45 SPC	(6:00) Sea Ghost (2004)		Circuit E3	Stargate SG-1 (CC)		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Star Trek: Voyager "Parallax"	
	294	650	47 TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	Lopez Tonight (N)		Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Lopez Tonight
	619	525	48 TROP	Raymond	Raymond	The Outer Limits (CC)		ET Canada	Comeback	Family Guy	Raymond	Raymond
	603	561	92 FN	At the Table	At the Table	Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Top Chef: Las Vegas (CC)		Food
	-	-	56 AMC	(5:00) Ghost ★★★ (1990)		Outbreak ★★ (1995) Dustin Hoffman. Army doctor fights spread of deadly virus. (CC)						Ghost ★★★
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Comfortably Dumb 101		Daily Show
	320	621	80 CEN	(6:25) Just Buried (2007) (CC)		Dexter "Hungry Man" (CC)		Californication	Lock 'n Load	Hancock ★★ (2008, Action) Will Smith. (CC)		
	581	566	101 MTV	Peak Season	After	MTV Live	Sex News	Real World-Road Rules		Peak Season	After	MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Science	Intelligent Design		Science of the Soul			Intelligent Design		God Bless
	-	-	109 MUL	Sewing Maid	Boys Over Flo	State Secret		To Be Announced		Pinoy: That's Entertainment		Patrol World

critics'corner

Heroes

H.R.G. (Jack Coleman) hosts an unconventional Thanksgiving dinner, while the Petrelli family receives a surprise guest at its holiday table. Lydia (guest star Dawn Olivieri) searches for the truth, while Samuel (Robert Knepper) continues to hold Hiro (Masi Oka) hostage. Hayden Panettiere, Greg Grunberg, Adrian Pasdar and Zachary Quinto also star in the new episode "Thanksgiving." 8 PM on NBC



House

On the eve of Thanksgiving, the team treats a brilliant physicist (guest star Esteban Powell), who traded his career for a job as a courier because he found intelligence to be a burden that led to depression and addiction. A myriad of strange symptoms nearly stumps the doctors, who also wrestle with strained personal relationships. Hugh Laurie, Robert Sean Leonard and Lisa Edelstein also star in the new episode "Ignorance Is Bliss." 8 PM on GTV FOX

Kenya's Style
Kenya Hunt
Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

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metro

Celebrity Buzz

Pam tells sons truth about tape

COMING CLEAN Pamela Anderson admits that she's had to come clean to her sons about her infamous sex tape with their dad, Tommy Lee. "I just said, 'Look, Mommy and Daddy were massively in love, we videotaped everything, everything was videotaped, and you're probably going hear about something at school,'" she says on a British TV special, according to the Sun.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Diddy throws himself an all-star b-day bash

SPLURGING ON THE BIG 4-0 Sean (Diddy) Combs knows how to party. The producer threw himself a lavish 40th birthday party in New York, spending a whopping $3 million US on the bash, according to Page Six.

The money went toward creating a Garden of Eden theme in a suite at the Plaza with a $30,000 orchid display, a specially installed black dance floor and black chandelier, a silver confetti drop and a performance by Al Green.

The all-star guest list included Bono, Jay-Z and Martha Stewart, and security was so tight that Twilight star Kellan Lutz had to sweet-talk his way into the VIP area.

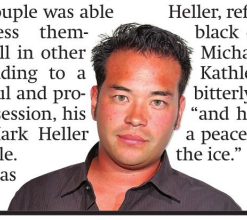
METRO WORLD NEWS

Jon's peace offering to Kate

A REAL LIFE WAR OF THE ROSES Jon Gosselin showed up for a daylong divorce arbitration hearing Saturday with a bouquet of long-stemmed red roses for Kate — only to have her turn them down and later leave the courthouse empty-handed, people.com reports.

But while Jon wasn't able to say it with flowers, the former couple was able to express themselves well in other ways, leading to a "successful and productive" session, his lawyer Mark Heller tells People.

"This has been called the real-life War of the Roses," says Heller, referring to the 1989 black comedy in which Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner played bitterly battling spouses, "and he brought that as a peace offering to break the ice."



METRO NEWS SERVICE

Celebrity tweets

Lance Armstong is having trouble making decisions, Pete Wentz goes to his fans for grooming advice, Sherri Shepherd thinks her plane landed safely because her Twitter followers said so.

- @lancearmstrong Good morning from Rancho Pelota. Wasn't gonna race, then decided to, then not, then yes.
- @petewentz presenting at the AMA's facial hair or no facial hair?
- @SherriEShepherd Made it home - thanks 4 prayers - I'm a big believer in the prayer power & especially Tweeps praying together!

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Tuesday Showers 70% 9° / 7°
Wednesday Rain 80% 10°/ 6°
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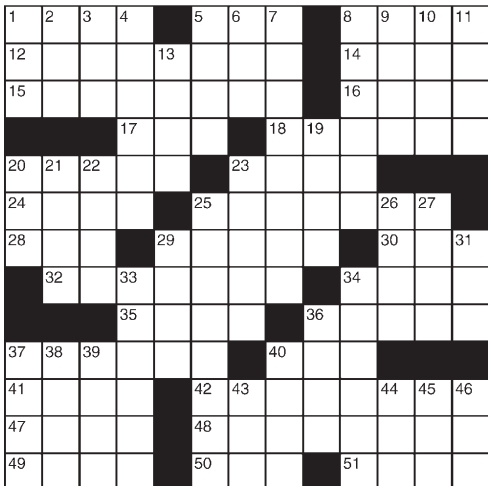
For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**

Take Five



ACROSS

1 Martial art
5 Clerical addr.
8 Major or Minor constellation
12 Products that may be "wrought"
14 Approach
15 Off
16 Part of TLC
17 Anger
18 Venue of perfection
20 Batter's woe
23 Despot
24 Firetruck essential
25 Coagulate
28 Colouration
29 Gold measure
30 Swab the deck
32 Intoxicated
34 Location
35 Panorama
36 Playful water critter
37 Capital of Mozambique
40 Mongrel
41 MPs' target
42 Abandoned
47 California wine valley
48 City in the Bahamas
49 Spud's buds
50 Stitch
51 Unuttered "alas"

DOWN

1 Diamond — Brady
2 Mentalist Geller
3 Two, in Tijuana
4 Not tardy
5 Croupier's tool
6 Before
7 UFO passenger, maybe?
8 Open the champagne
9 Harvest
10 Indian woman's garment
11 Neighbourhood
13 Distort
19 Diplomacy
20 "Be quiet!"
21 Stentorian
22 Addict
23 Pitched
25 Spoofs
26 Send forth
27 Memorandum
29 Heal, as a fracture
31 Part of MPH
33 Soft palate extensions
34 Harness parts
36 English river
37 Horse's neck hair
38 Vacationing
39 Benedict XVI, e.g.
40 Captain's squad
43 Raw rock
44 Japanese pond carp
45 Work unit
46 To the — degree

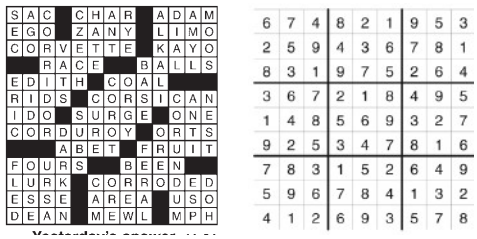
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	3		4		1	6		
	6			5	8			
		1					5	
		8			4			2
1								9
9			7			1		
	4					5		
			2	3			7	
		5	9		6		8	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



6	7	4	8	2	1	9	5	3
2	5	9	4	3	6	7	8	1
8	3	1	9	7	5	2	6	4
3	6	7	2	1	8	4	9	5
1	4	8	5	6	9	3	2	7
9	2	5	3	4	7	8	1	6
7	8	3	1	5	2	6	4	9
5	9	6	7	8	4	1	3	2
4	1	2	6	9	3	5	7	8

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Lamb Steaks Provençale

INGREDIENTS:

2 tbsp (25 ml) olive oil
1 large red onion, diced
1 green pepper, diced
2 zucchini, diced
1 small fennel bulb, chopped
2 garlic cloves, chopped
4 tsp (20 ml) herbes de Provence
4 lean lamb leg steaks,
4 large plum tomatoes, diced
2 tbsp (25 ml) black olive tapenade

METHOD:

1. Heat oil, reserving about 2 tsp (10 ml), in deep frying pan and add onion, pepper, zucchini, fennel, garlic and herbs. Cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally, 10 minutes or until softened and lightly browned.
2. While vegetables are cooking, brush lamb steaks lightly with remaining oil and season lightly. Cook, turning once, on hot ridged griddle or heavy-based frying pan 5-8 minutes, depending on thickness, until slightly pink in centre. Remove from heat.
3. Add tomatoes and tapenade to vegetables, then simmer 3-4 minutes or until softened. Add lamb steaks to vegetables, then serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
If you change your mind about something today you will most likely change it back again before the end of the week, so why change at all?

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Watch what you say over the next 24 hours. If you do go too far and use provocative words, apologize the moment you come to your senses.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You can quite easily wriggle out of what you are expected to do today but you won't be popular with people in positions of power.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Flattery will get you everywhere today except the one place you most want to go. For best results, be honest with colleagues and loved ones alike.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
You'll feel the need to clear the air today, if only to start the week on the right note and let those around you know you don't intend to take prisoners.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
The best way to deal with criticism is to ignore it. You may be tempted to hit back at someone's snide remarks but what's the point? Let it go.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Make sure that facts and figures add up today, because someone could be trying to trick you — and you could lose some serious money.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Be careful who you poke fun at today because the planets warn you could offend someone who has the power to make life difficult for you.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You don't seem to be much in the mood for work as the new week gets under way, but that's okay. If a task bores you then don't force it.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Everyone seems to have an opinion about what you are up to and, mostly, why you are doing it wrong. Ignore them all. If it works for you, go for it.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
You would be wise not to change your ways just because others expect it of you. Besides, the inner you will never really change.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Be totally truthful when dealing with others today, even if it means upsetting your friends or putting your standing on the work front in jeopardy.

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